

Dear Co-Chair Senator Osten, Co-Chair Rep. Walker, Vice-Chair Senator Hartley, Vice-Chair Rep. Dathan, Vice-Chair Rep. Nolan, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee:

I write to urge you to provide additional funds to be earmarked for individual artist grants. Artists are the foundation of the creative economy, who contributes so much to the quality of life in our state. The pandemic has hit artists of all kinds—visual, and performing artists—particularly hard. The current level of grant funding for artists is woefully inadequate to ameliorate the impact that artists have felt because of closures or diminished attendance at galleries or performing arts venues.

While arts institutions, such as museums and arts spaces, have been provided significant monetary relief, individual artists, without whom these institutions would not exist, have been offered little in the way of relief. Yet, we are the ones who are always asked to donate our art for the benefit of those institutions. Don't misunderstand me. We should all be grateful that those museums and art spaces exist, but if supporting them is essential—and it is—how can the support of artists be any less essential?

The state of New York just announced a \$125,000,000.00 public/private initiative called *Creatives Rebuild New York* that will provide artists with either guaranteed income of \$1,000.00 per month or full-time employment opportunities in order to attempt to heal the damage done by the pandemic. An article about this initiative may found here:

<https://observer.com/2021/06/creatives-rebuild-new-york-mellon-foundation/>

I bring this to your attention, because the need is great, and the time for your consideration is now.

Thank you all, for that consideration, and for your past and future support of the arts.

Sheldon Krevit
Hamden, CT